

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:ADROMBERG:MFR

APPROVED BY EA/PRCM:OVARSTRONG

S/S -O: G.TWOHIE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 073320

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, ETRD, CH

SUBJECT: USG REPRESENTATION AT CANTON FAIR

REF: A) STATE 57704

B) HONG KONG 3831

C) PEKING 577

1. FOR VARIETY OF REASONS, INCLUDING IMMINENCE OF OPENING OF CANTON FAIR, IT WAS DECIDED THAT EA/PRCM ARMSTRONG WOULD CALL IN PRCLO CHI CH'AO-CHU APRIL 10 TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER EXCLUDING CONGEN OFFICERS FROM CANTON FAIR AND REQUEST THAT THE MATTER BE RECONSIDERED.

2. WE REVIEWED THE SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE AT THE FALL 1973 FAIR, WHEN BOTH USLO AND CONGEN OFFICERS WERE PRESENT, NOTING THAT TWO-WAY TRADE HAD BEEN FACILITATED BY THAT ARRANGEMENT. WE ALSO NOTED THAT USLO, WITH ONLY TWO ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL OFFICERS, FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO FULFILL ITS FUNCTIONS IN PEKING IF IT MUST PROVIDE SOLE SUPPORT FUNCTION TO MAJOR UNDERTAKING ELSEWHERE SUCH AS AT THE FAIR. THE VALUE TO OUR TWO-WAY TRADE OF HAVING OFFICERS IN HONG KONG WITH CANTON FAIR EXPERIENCE WAS ALSO
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MENTIONED.

3. BEYOND THAT, HOWEVER, WE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT ABSENCE OF CONGEN OFFICERS FROM THIS FAIR WOULD

INEVITABLY GENERATE PRESS AND DIPLOMATIC SPECULATION ABOUT PROBLEMS IN THE OVERALL BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, SPECULATION WHICH WE FELT WOULD NOT/NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF EITHER THE US OR THE PRC. WE OBSERVED THAT THIS WAS PARTICULARLY LIKELY SINCE CONGEN OFFICERS ATTENDED 1973 FAIR AND SINCE OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT CANTON BY THEIR CONSULATES IN HONG KONG (AS WELL AS THEIR EMBASSIES FROM PEKING). WE ADDED THAT SUCH SPECULATION WOULD BE GIVEN ADDED IMPETUS WHEN IT BECOMES KNOWN THAT CCPIT VISIT IS BEING POSTPONED TO NEXT YEAR.

4. WE SAID THAT WE WANTED TO SHARE THESE THOUGHTS WITH PRC AND HOPED THAT THEY WOULD GIVE THE MATTER FURTHER CONSIDERATION. CHI RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD REPORT TO AMBASSADOR HUANG CHEN (WHO ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY AFTERNOON BY CAR FROM NEW YORK. FYI, HIS WIFE WILL RETURN IN A FEW WEEKS.)

5. THE ATMOSPHERE THROUGHOUT THE MEETING WAS CORDIAL. WE PURPOSELY TRIED TO KEEP THE TONE LOW-KEY BUT TO THE POINT, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT CHI UNDERSTOOD OUR CONCERN.

6. CHI PROMISED TO BE BACK IN TOUCH WHEN HE HAD SOMETHING TO REPORT. WE POINTED OUT THE SHORTNESS OF TIME.

7. FOR HONG KONG. FOR CONTINGENCY PLANNING, IF THE PRC ISSUES VISAS TO ALLEN AND PERITO, WE SUGGEST CONGEN CONSIDER REVERSING THE ORDER OF THEIR INTENDED STAYS IN CANTON. PRCLO STILL HOLDS ALLENS' SECOND PASSPORTS, AND EVEN QUICK RESPONSE WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO GET THEM TO HONG KONG IN TIME FOR BEGINNING OF FAIR.

8. WE WILL REPORT AS SOON AS WE HAVE ANY FURTHER WORD FROM THE CHINESE. KISSINGER
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